Amir J. Goldstein, Esq. (Bar No. 255620) Attorney for Plaintiff 5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 914 Los Angeles, CA 90036 Tel 323.937.0400 Fax 866.288.9194

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RINATTE HAMI, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

SACVO8-1355 CIC MLGX

COMPLAINT

WINN LAW GROUP,

Defendant.

Plaintiff, by and through her attorney, Amir J. Goldstein, Esq., as and for her complaint against the Winn Law Group as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by an individual consumer and on behalf of a class for defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA") and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Studio City, California.

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3. Upon information and belief, defendant Winn Law Group is a debt collector as defined pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) with its executive office and principal place of business in Fullerton, California.

JURISDICTION

4. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k (FDCPA) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 et seq., as the defendant conducts a business, the nature of which subjects the corporation to jurisdiction in this district and the transactions that give rise to this action occurred, in substantial part, in this district.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE CLASS

- 5. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 4 as if fully restated herein.
- 6. That a personal debt was allegedly incurred by the plaintiff from her lessor "AMLI on the Boulevard" and was at one time being collected by one Fair Outsourcing & Collections.
- 8. That, after the debt was disputed by the plaintiff, Fair Collections & Outsourcing referred and or assigned debt to defendant Winn Law Group.
- 9. That, on or about August 6, 2008, Winn Law Group sent an initial collection letter to plaintiff. A copy of said letter is attached hereto and made part hereof.
 - 10. Said letter stated in pertinent parts:
- "We represent the above named Creditor, who referred the debt to us for collection. At this time, we are investigating the validity of our client's claim. No attorney has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account. We have not made a decision whether or not to file suit to collect the debt...

- 11. If you dispute the validity of this debt, or any portion thereof, we invite you to explain why...."
- 12. Said language contradicts and/or overshadows the consumers right to dispute the debt for 30 days as required by law in that it directs the consumer to "explain why" she disputed the debt.
- 13. Said language falsely implies that legal action is imminent, once the firm has an opportunity to review the case, however, the Defendant has no intention of actually filing suit.
- 14. Said language falsely implies that the Defendant is "investigating the validity of" their client's claim, when in fact no such investigation takes place, and any investigation should have taken place prior to Defendants communicating with the consumer.
 - 15. Said language fails to identify the true identity of the original creditor.
- 16. That on August 29, 2008, within the 30 days dispute period, Defendant sent another notice to the plaintiff. A copy of said letter is attached hereto and made part hereof.
- 17. Said letter advised the consumer that Defendants have now had an opportunity to review the file and directs the consumer to contact the Defendant personally.
- 18. That, because the second letter was sent within plaintiff's 30-day dispute period, said language overshadows the notice in the first letter.
 - 19. That on both the first and second letter to the plaintiff, the creditor was falsely listed as Fair Collections and Outsourcing.
- 20. That each letter arbitrarily inflates the debt amount with interest that is unlawful and unwarranted.
 - 21. Defendant's conduct violates 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq., including but not limited to

and attorney's fees.

required by law.

22. That as per 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. and as a result of the above violation,

defendant is liable to the plaintiff and all members similarly situated for statutory damages in an

confusing, misleading, deceptive, unfair and fail to advise the consumer of his legal rights as

Subsections (d),(e), (g) and (f) in that the representations made by the defendant are false,

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE CLASS

amount to be determined at the time of trial but not less that \$1,000.00 per violation, plus costs

- 23. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 25 as if fully restated herein.
- 24. The Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Rosenthal Act), California Civil Code § 1788, et seq., prohibits unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the collection of consumer debts.
- 25. By their acts and practices as hereinabove described, the Defendants have violated the Rosenthal Act as follows, without limitation:
- a) Generating form letters to consumer containing negligent or wanton misrepresentations about the identity of the creditors
- b) By generating form letters that contain language which contradicts and overshadows the consumer rights
- c) By falsely threatening the consumer with legal action that can not legally be taken and/or is not actually intended to be taken.
- d) By unlawfully and arbitrarily inflating the debt amount with interest fees that have no basis in law or contact.
- 26. Pursuant to § 788.30 of the Rosenthal Act, Plaintiff is entitled to recover her actual damages sustained as a result of the Defendants' violations of the Rosenthal Act. Such damages include, without limitation, statutory damages, any actual damages sustained, other

resulting monetary losses and damages, and emotional distress suffered by Plaintiff, which damages are in an amount to be proven at trial.

- 27. In addition, because the Defendants' violations of the Rosenthal Act were committed willingly and knowingly, Plaintiff is entitled to recover, in addition to her actual damages, penalties of at least \$1,000 per violation as provided for in the Act.
- 28. Pursuant to § 1788.30(c) Rosenthal Act, Plaintiff is entitled to recover all attorneys' fees, costs and expenses incurred in the bringing of this action.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 29. The first cause of action is brought on behalf of plaintiff and the members of a class.
- 30. The class consists of consumers who received the same form letter(s), as did the plaintiff.
- 31. The Class consists of all persons whom Defendant's records reflect resided in the State of California and who were sent a collection letter (a) bearing the defendant's letterhead in substantially the same form as the letter sent to the plaintiff on or about August 6, 2008, and August 29, 2008, (b) the collection letter(s) was sent to a consumers seeking payment of a consumer debt; and (c) the collection letter was not returned by the postal service as undelivered, (d) and that the letter contained violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692 d, e, g and f for contradicting and confusing the consumer as to his/her rights and falsely representing the name of the original creditor of the alleged debt, falsely threatening legal action that is not intended to be taken and unlawfully inflating the debt amount.
- 32. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, a class action is appropriate and preferable in this case because:
 - (A) Based on the fact that the collection letters that are at the heart of this litigation

are mass-mailed and computer generated form letters, the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

- (B) There are questions of law and fact common to the class and these questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members. The principal question presented by this claim is whether the Defendant violated the FDCPA by failing to follow appropriate procedures.
- (C) The only individual issue is the identification of the consumers who received the letters, (*i.e.* the class members), a matter capable of ministerial determination from the records of Defendant.
- (D) The claims of the plaintiff are typical of those of the class members. All are based on the same facts and legal theories.
- (E) The plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the class members' interests. The plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in bringing class actions and collection-abuse claims. The plaintiff's interests are consistent with those of the members of the class.
- 33. A class action is superior for the fair and efficient adjudication of the class members' claims. Congress specifically envisions class actions as a principal means of enforcing the FDCPA. 15 U.S.C. 1692(k). The members of the class are generally unsophisticated individuals, whose rights will not be vindicated in the absence of a class action. Prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the classes would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications resulting in the establishment of inconsistent or varying standards for the parties and would not be in the interest of judicial economy.
- 34. If the facts are discovered to be appropriate, the plaintiff will seek to certify a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - 35. Collection letters, such as those sent by the defendant are to be evaluated by the

objective standard of the hypothetical "least sophisticated consumer."

- 36. Defendant violated the FDCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to, the following:(g), (e), and (f):
- (a) Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by employing unfair tactics in attempt to collect a debt;
- (b) Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e by using false representations and deceptive means in an attempt to collect a debt;
 - (c) Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692g by contradicting plaintiff's rights.
 - (d) Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d by harassing the plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against defendant in the amount of:

- (a) Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k in an amount to be determined at the time of trial on behalf of the class on the first cause of action.
- (b) Statutory damages pursuant to Civil Code §1788.30 et seq., as to the second cause of action.
- (c) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and Civil Code §1788.30, et seq.
 - (d) For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: November 24, 2008

Amir J. Goldstein, Esq.

Amir Coldstein, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff

5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 914

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Tel 323.937.0400

Fax 866.288.9194

WINN LAW GROUP

BRIAN N. WINN

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 1216 FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA 92836

TELEPHONE: (71-1: 446-6686

LAURA MCCARTHY HOALST JOHN E. CORDON JONATHAN B. KLEIN NAOMI S. RUST WELLIAM J. EDWARDS

THE CHAPMAN BUILDING (10 E. WILSHIRE AVE. SUITE 212 FULLERTON, CA 92832-1109 Toll Free Telephone; 866-494-6674
FAX: (7)-13-446-6680
B-MAIL: CustServ@winnlawgroup.com

August 6, 2008

Rinatte Hami Apt 2213 10993 Bluffside Dr

Studio City CA 91604-4451

08-32929-0

RE: Creditor:

FAIR COLLECTIONS AND OUTSOURCING XXXXXXX1147

Account Number:

\$2,132.31

Principal Due on Account: Interest Due on Account:

\$123.85 through August 6, 2008

Total Due as of August 6, 2008:

,

\$2,256.16

Name of Debtor:

RINATTE HAMI

Dear Sir/Madam:

THIS LAW FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR, AS DEFINED BY 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(6), AND THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY US WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

We represent the above named creditor, who referred the debt to us for collection. At this time, we are investigating the validity of our client's claim. No attorney with this firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account. We have not yet made a decision whether or not to file suit to collect the debt. Any suit to collect the debt, however, will be filed by an attorney licensed to practice law in the state in which the complaint is filed.

If you dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, we invite you to explain why. You are not under any duty to tell us anything, but if you decide to do so, we will take any information that you decide to provide to us into consideration in deciding whether or not the debt is valid. If you admit the validity of the debt and you would like to make a voluntary arrangement to pay it off, you may contact us as follows: (1) by writing to us at 110 East Wilshire Avenue, Suite 212, Fullerton, CA 92832-1960, (2) by telephoning our office at (714) 388-3080 or toll-free 866-494-6674 and speak with your Negotiations Representative, or (3) by sending us a fax at (714) 446-1987.

If you have any questions regarding your rights or liabilities, please consult an attorney.

IMPORTANT CONSUMER NOTICES SET FORTH ON THE BACKSIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT. PLEASE READ.

09/19/2008 11:13 2136271047

MALCA-AMIT USA-LAX

PAGE 01/01

WINN LAW GROUP

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 1216 FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA 92896

TBLEPHONE: (714) 446-6686 Toll Free Telephone:: 866-494-6674 FAX: (714) 446-6680

LAURA McCARTHY HOALST JOHN B. GORDON JONATHAN B. KLEIN NAOMI S. RUST WILLIAM J. EDWARDS

BRIAN N. WINN

THE CHAPMAN BUILDING 110 E. WILSHIRB AVE, SUITE 212 FULLERTON, CA 92832-1109

B-MAIL: CustServ@winnkiwgroup.com

Hamiltollouded, Indialable to the Hamilton

August 29, 2008

Rinatte Hami Apt 2213 10993 Bluffside Dr Studio City CA 91604-4451

08-32929-0 (pcl)

RE: Creditor:

FAIR COLLECTIONS AND OUTSOURCING

Account Number:

XXXXXXX1147

Principal Due on Account:

\$2,132.31

Interest Due on Account:

\$123.85 through August 29, 2008

Total Due as of August 29, 2008:

\$2,256,16

Name of Debtor:

RINATTE HAMI

Dear Sir/Madam:

THIS LAW FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR, AS DEFINED BY 15 U.S.C. §1692(a)(6), AND THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY US WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

After reviewing this file, it is my belief that it is in the best interest of both yourself and my client that you call our office at (714) 388-3080 or toll-free 866-494-6674 and speak with your representative, Negotiator @ ext. 293, to discuss this matter personally.

Please call as soon as possible to resolve this matter.

Your anticipated cooperation and courtesy is appreciated.

Brian Winn

Case 8:08-cv-01355-CJC-MLG Document 1 Filed 12/01/08 Page 11 of 14 Page ID #:11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) Rinatte Hami, individually and for other similarly situated						DEFENDANTS Winn Law Group 110 East Wilshire Avenue, Suite 212 Fullerton, CA 92832-1960							
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)					representing	Attorneys (If Known)							
	Amir J. Goldstein, Esq.												,
	5455 Wilshire Boulevard,	Suite 9											
	Los Angeles, CA 90036		323 937 040	0									
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number:

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has If yes, list case number(s):	this action been pre	eviously filed in this court an	nd dismissed, remanded or closed? ♥No □ Yes		
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have If yes, list case number(s):	any cases been pre	viously filed in this court tha	at are related to the present case? Mo Ves		
□ C. 1	Arise from the same Call for determination For other reasons we	or closely related transaction of the same or substantial buld entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or ly related or similar questions of law and fact; or ation of labor if heard by different judges; or and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.		
IX. VENUE: (When completing the					
(a) List the County in this District; C ☐ Check here if the government, it	California County or s agencies or emplo	utside of this District; State i yees is a named plaintiff. If	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. this box is checked, go to item (b).		
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Los Angeles					
(b) List the County in this District; C □ Check here if the government, it	California County or s agencies or emplo	utside of this District; State i yees is a named defendant.	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).		
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Orange					
(c) List the County in this District; County in this District; County in this District:*	California County or uses, use the location	utside of this District; State i n of the tract of land involv	f other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose. ved. California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
Los Angeles		.			
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernar Note: In land condemnation cases, use	dino, Riverside, Ve	entura, Santa Barbara, or S tract of land involved	San Luis Obispo Counties		
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (DAUL-	Date 11/4/08		
Notice to Counsel/Parties: The	e CV-71 (JS-44) Ci	ed by the Judicial Conference	mation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings e of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)		
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	cial Security Cases:	-			
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of	f Cause of Action		
861	НІА	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))			
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung (30 U.S.C. 923)	g" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.		
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured amended; plus all claims f	l workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as iled for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widow Act, as amended. (42 U.S	s or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security .C. 405(g))		
864	SSID	All claims for supplementa Act, as amended.	al security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security		
865 RSI All claims for retireme			old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42		

U.S.C. (g))

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Cormac J. Carney and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Marc Goldman.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

SACV08- 1355 CJC (MLGx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge
NOTICE TO COUNSEL
A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).
Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X] Southern Division

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053

Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

☐ Eastern Division

3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134

Riverside, CA 92501

[] Western Division

312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Case 8:08-cv-01355-CJC-M	ILG Document 1	Filed 12/01/08 Page 14 of 14 Page ID #:14
		- CUILI
	UNITED STATES	TOF CALIFORNIA
Rinatte Hami, individually and	r others similarly	CASE NUMBER
situated,	PLAINTIFF(S)	SACVO8-1355 CIC MLC.
v.	FLAINTH'(5)	SACIOO IDDO CILO MENTO
Winn Law Group		
		SUMMONS
	DEFENDANT(S).	
TO: DEFENDANT(S): Winn		
A lawsuit has been filed ag	gainst you.	nd you (not counting the day you received it), you
TI MITOMIN MAD OCCUPANT		ICE UNITED TO THE PROPERTY OF
Within 20 days after s	service of this sum to	complaint amended complaint
□ counterclaim □ cross-claim or	amotion under Rule I	2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer
or motion must be served on the b	laintiff's attorney, Al	nir J. Goldstein , whose address is
5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 9	14, Los Angeles, CA	relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file
your answer or motion with the co	ourt.	teller demanded in the companion 100 and 100 and
your answer of meters with the		
		Clerk, U.S. District Court
		LA'RFE HORN
DEC - 1 2008		
Dated:DEC		By:
		of the U.S. Co.
		ICE ON The Court
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the Usit 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].	FEICE	U3- 1 (2)
The second secon	Day Of Inited State	s agency, or is an officer of anything the United States. Allowed
[Use 60 days if the defendant is the Q	eta Sallessor a Omica Sian	1192
		-432
CV-01A (12/07)	SUM	MONS